

23

SPECIMENS
OF
THE RUSSIAN POETS

TRANSLATED

By JOHN BOWRING, F.L.S.

WITH BIOGRAPHICAL AND CRITICAL NOTICES.

SECOND EDITION, WITH ADDITIONS.

PRINTED FOR R. HUNTER, LONDON; AND ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE
AND CO., EDINBURGH.

“THIS work is really a very interesting volume; not only from its entire novelty of subject, but on account of its real and intrinsic merit. It warms our hearts—critics as we are—to think that such poetry as this should find its way into the cottages of the Russian peasantry, illuminating them, as it cannot fail to do, with the rays of pleasure and content.

“We must express our decided admiration of the manner in which the translation is made—at least as far as we are enabled to judge. It is evident Mr. B. possesses a very elegant and cultivated taste, a copious flow of language, and great skill and variety of versification.”—*Baldwin's London Magazine for March 1821*, p. 316—321.

“Mr. B.'s volume is a valuable addition to our literary stores. After the world seemed exhausted, and we were induced literally to interpret the complaint of the wise man, that there is nothing new under the Sun, Mr. B. has led the way to the Terra Incognita of poetry. Of his own merits as an elegant and spirited versifier, the specimens we have selected furnish abundant proof.”—*Monthly Magazine for March 1821*, p. 131—4.

“A language in which such a poem as this is to be found must admit of being made the vehicle of all that is noble in poetry. It was Mr. B.'s plan to write a general history of the ‘infant literature’ of Russia. These translations are certainly well adapted to prepare the way for such a work, by exciting an interest in the subjects, while the taste and ability displayed in this volume show that it could not be consigned to a person better qualified for the undertaking.”—*Eclectic Review for March 1821*, p. 284—90.

“We were not prepared to expect that Russia had advanced so far in elegant literature as this really curious and interesting volume proves she has done. We have been so delighted with it, that we have dwelt on it at greater length than is usual with us, and we should be ungrateful if we did not thank Mr. B. for the gratification he has afforded us.”—*Literary Chronicle*, No. 92, 103—5. No. 93, 115—118.

“It is our gratifying duty to exhibit a few choice exotics from the snow-clad mountains of Russia. The appeal they make to the heart and understanding will be immediately felt and admitted.”—*European Magazine for March 1821*.

“This is on many accounts a most interesting volume. It is the first attempt to naturalize in England the poetical literature of Russia. Where poetry of so cordial a kind as that with which Mr. B. has enriched our borrowed stores is familiar, no refinement can be long absent.”—*Monthly Repository for March 1821*.

“M. Bowring has shown in his enterprise a felicitous and flexible talent. Though most faithful to the varied character of his originals, he does not weary us by abrupt contrasts. He made a delicate choice before he entered on his labours.”—*Revue Encyclopédique*, Mai 1821, p. 355—369.

OBSERVATIONS

ON

THE RESTRICTIVE AND PROHIBITORY Commercial System,

FROM THE MSS. OF JEREMY BENTHAM, Esq.

By JOHN BOWRING.

“THE great talent of Mr. Bentham consists in his extraordinary power of extracting general conclusions, and finally principles from various and complicated premises; in effecting which, although his manner is often verbally elaborate, the result is uniformly the purest mental simplification. In this tract this happy art of reducing multifarious facts into manageable dimensions is displayed to great advantage. The conclusions are brought out with the logical precision for which this author is so remarkable, and which, by forcing back the mind link by link upon the premises, ensures a comprehensive idea of a subject that not only distracts by its natural perplexity, but is designedly clouded by the power and perversity of commercial selfishness.”—*Examiner*, March 18, 1821.

“The subject of restrictions on commerce is clearly and methodically treated in this small work.”—*Times*, March 24, 1821.

“Mr. Bowring, from his extensive commercial knowledge, has been able to add information on the practical effect of the commercial system in Spain, which would be very instructive to its advocates in England.”—*Traveller*, April 6, 1821.

“These statements are illustrated by facts, and strengthened by reasonings which it would, in our opinion, be impossible to controvert. This work deserves the maturest consideration of every reflecting man in the United Kingdom. We perfectly agree with the author, and submit his arguments to the solemn and serious meditation of our country.”—*Statesman*, March 26, 1821.

“Small as this work is,—not so its merit. It is like the *Iliad* when shut up in a nut. It is a summary of the principles of sound political economy, as far as commerce is concerned.”—*O Portuguese*, lxxviii. p. 109.